NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Summit
ENTRY DATE: SEP 9, 1974

1. NAME
COMMON: Ohio and Erie Canal Deep Lock
AND/OR HISTORIC: |

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 5 of Peninsula on Riverview Road
CITY OR TOWN: Peninsula, Vicinity
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 14 - John Seiberling

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Being Considered
- In Process
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes:
- Restricted
- Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Park
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
State of Ohio Department of Public Works

STREET AND NUMBER:
65 S. Front Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus
STATE: Ohio
CODE: 039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Summit County Building
STREET AND NUMBER:
72 South High Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Akron
STATE: Ohio
CODE: 039

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
This is a stone masonry canal lock structure. The channel is 90 feet long by 15 feet wide by 16 feet deep. The structure is essentially two parallel walls of cut stone construction. At the south end they are connected by the slightly concave low retaining wall of the upper channel. At the north or deep end, the walls flare outward to facilitate the approach of the boats. The gate post channels are clearly visible. Parts of the sandstone walls were faced with cement in 1907-1908, with the idea of preventing further weathering of the stone, but the old stonework walls are in good condition.
The development of the canals was an event that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of state and national history. This lock is the deepest one of the chain between Akron and Cleveland on the Ohio and Erie Canal. It was Lock number 28 of the Akron-Cleveland section, and was commonly called Deep Lock.

Discussions on the possibility of an Ohio-Erie Canal began in 1821-1822. Surveys at the Cuyahoga Portage began in 1825. In September of that year the feasibility of the route was determined, and work on the Cuyahoga Section was definitely in progress in the summer of 1826. In April, 1827, the Commission for Canals determined to complete the Akron-Cleveland line (36 miles with 42 locks) by June 1st. The first boat arrived in Cleveland from Akron on July 4, 1827. Deep Lock was thus part of a major transportation system in the 1830's and 1840's. The importance of the canals declined after the Civil War, and ceased to function for all practical purposes around 1900. The restoration of some locks with concrete in 1907 was ostensibly to make the canal serviceable for pleasure boating, but it was not long before it was completely abandoned.

Other canal remains between Peninsula and Akron are insignificant. The nearest canal remains have been included in another National Register nomination for Peninsula Village.
Frank Wilcox, *The Ohio Canals* (Kent, Ohio, 1969), 17-21, 34-37, 93-95.

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY**

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**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES**

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:**

less than one

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME AND TITLE:**

Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

**ORGANIZATION:**

Western Reserve Historical Society

**DATE:**

October 1973

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [x]
- Local [ ]

**Name**

[Signature]

**Title**

[Signature]

**Date**

3 May 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

**Name**

[Signature]

**Date**

9/9/74

**ATTEST:**

**Title**

[Signature]

**Date**

9/9/74
8. Amplification of Statement of Significance

There are no known ruins, either above or below ground, of buildings associated with the Deep Lock. It is unlikely that any are left underground, since the slope of the ground adjacent to the lock makes the site unsuitable for building construction.

The lock is known as the Deep Lock simply because it is the deepest on the canal. The topography of the land between Akron and Cleveland required 42 locks on the canal, and the depth of the Deep Lock gave the elevation required at that point. That is, it was made as deep as it had to be.